

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On Page 1, after the title of the application, please insert the following:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a division of Serial No. 10/210,814, filed August 2, 2002, and which is incorporated in its entirety herein by reference..- -

Please replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 18-22, with the new paragraph set forth below:

- in the presence of a bulk catalyst consisting of ~~aluminium~~ aluminum fluoride or of a mixture of ~~aluminium~~ aluminum fluoride and alumina, or of a catalyst based on iron, or on iron and nickel, supported on ~~aluminium~~ aluminum fluoride or on a mixture of ~~aluminium~~ aluminum fluoride and alumina.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, lines 6-18, with the new paragraph set forth below:

The catalyst that may be used for this invention is a catalyst consisting of ~~aluminium~~ aluminum fluoride or a mixture of ~~aluminium~~ aluminum fluoride and alumina, onto which are optionally deposited oxides, halides and/or oxyhalides of iron, or else of iron and nickel. Catalysts consisting of ~~aluminium~~ aluminum fluoride, alone or as a mixture with alumina, are described especially in EP 0 609 124. Catalysts based on iron, or on iron and nickel, are prepared by dry-impregnating ~~aluminium~~ aluminum fluoride or a

mixture of ~~aluminium~~ aluminum fluoride and alumina, either by a solution of ferric chloride, or by a solution containing a mixture of nickel chloride and ferric chloride. The impregnation is followed by a step of drying under nitrogen.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, line 26 – page 12, line 8 with the paragraph set forth below:

In this step, the catalyst is advantageously a mixed catalyst composed of oxides, halides and/or oxyhalides of nickel and of chromium as described in EP-B-609 124. Catalysts based on chromium oxide or oxyfluoride or based on alumina or ~~aluminium~~ aluminum fluoride, optionally doped with a metal such as zinc, nickel or iron, may also be used. Such catalysts are described, for example, in EP-502 605 or WO 93/16798. A catalyst of the chromium/charcoal type as described, for example, in EP-A-456 552 may also be used.

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, lines 9-11 with the paragraph set forth below:

For this step, a mixed catalyst described above deposited on a support consisting of ~~aluminium~~ aluminum fluoride or a mixture of ~~aluminium~~ aluminum fluoride and alumina is preferably used.